



State of Maryland
Office of the Attorney General

February 4, 2022

TO: The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr., Chair, Judicial Proceedings Committee

FROM: Carrie J. Williams, Assistant Attorney General

RE: Attorney General's Support for SB 328

The Attorney General urges the Judicial Proceedings Committee to report favorably on SB 328. SB 328 would expand the definition of “stalking” to include electronic communication or using a device to track a person’s location without knowledge or consent.

Modern “smart phones” with GPS location capability and other GPS tracking devices are more commonplace and affordable every year. While these devices have increased personal and public safety in many important ways, they can present a grave safety risk for victims of domestic violence and stalking.

By surreptitiously placing a GPS tracking device in a victim’s car or purse, or activating the location software on a victim’s cell phone, a stalker can access a victim’s precise location at any point in time. This invasion of privacy is not only emotionally distressing, it can be a matter of life or death for someone fleeing an abusive partner or stalker.

SB 328 modernizes Maryland law by including electronic communications and non-consensual tracking devices in the definition of “stalking.” The Attorney General urges a favorable report on SB 328.

cc: Members of the Committee